



Lesson 55 – Purity of Heart

This week the Lord brought up the Temple of the Lord again. I decided to review our flow book to refresh my memory on the messages The Lord has given us regarding the temple. Here are a few of the words regarding the temple from our flow book:

04/01/2009 - **Begin with silence before The Lord, don't be presumptuous, don't cause a commotion. (This has to do with meetings.) Reverence through silence. I will speak to you what needs to be spoken, when it needs to be said. This is for all. I AM supreme. I AM in charge. It is my meeting. Superstitious = your interpretations. Seek me. It is the plain spoken truth. Reverence in my sanctuary. Where is my sanctuary? Where you meet with me.**

"You shall keep my sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary, I AM THE LORD." Leviticus 19:30
Holy, Holy, Holy, I AM THE LORD ALMIGHTY. This is the spoken truth.

Sanctuary definition - A consecrated place as in the Hebrew **temple** in Jerusalem or its holy of holies (where the Lord dwells). A place of refuge or protection.

12/27/2009 – I was thinking of silence before The Lord and how no one is worthy to speak...
"No one is worthy to speak but I accept you. I went to the cross for you. There was silence in the temple and there is silence in this temple." (Jesus is the temple we enter into him; elements mixing etc) "I AM with you. I meet your needs. I AM The Way. The Way to hope; The Way to The Father; The Way to compassion; The Way to brideship; The Way to salvation here and now. Have no other gods. No other gods offer The Way. I AM The Way."

These words received from the Lord are teaching us about reverence (honor and respect) before the Lord (in His Temple) and in His meetings. And He continues teaching us about preparing ourselves in these words we received in May of this year.

05/01/2011 **Study, prepare- your heart, your mind, your soul and your spirit; in other words my temple.**

You probably remember our study about the temple in Lesson 35. We learned that we are the Temple of the Living God, cleansed by the blood of Christ and herein He dwells. And we learned we are to keep His Ten Commandments within us just as they were kept within the Ark. This is part of what keeps us clean and pure. We are to be holy as He is holy. Christ gave us the example to be followed.

We can see a progression of the Lord's teaching from the words we have received. He first spoke of **reverence** in His sanctuary, the holy of holies (**where He dwells**), followed by **silence** or in other words at the most basic level, **getting rid of self**. He has encouraged us to prepare ourselves; our temple, through study.

This week He spoke more on the Temple of the Lord, your heart, when He said, **Chambers, inner chambers should be clean and pure. Temple of your heart, clean and pure (Your inner chamber). This is where the Lord dwells.** As mentioned above in Lesson 35 we talked about the Ten Commandments (His laws) were part of what keeps us clean and pure. They were kept in the Ark. I decided at this point to look up the definition of Ark. Ark definition: **a boat or ship held to resemble that in which Noah and his family were preserved from the Flood b : something that affords protection and safety 2) the sacred chest representing to the Hebrews the presence of God among them b : a repository traditionally in or against the wall of a synagogue for the scrolls of the Torah.** Therefore His laws (that keep us clean and pure) were kept within the Ark where they were safe and protected and this is where the presence of the Lord “dwelled”. And how does all this apply to our lives today? Well, you see the Lord lives in our hearts which are kept clean and pure by His laws that are there for our safety and protection. That which occurred in the natural/physical in days of old is now occurring in the spirit realm in our lives today. Pretty amazing isn't it!

So back to getting our inner chambers clean and pure. Let's look at the definition of purity/pure: **unmixed with any other matter; free from dust, dirt, or taint; spotless, stainless; free from harshness or roughness; being in tune; being thus and no other, sheer, unmitigated, abstract, theoretical; free from what vitiates, weakens, or pollutes; containing nothing that does not properly belong b : free from moral fault or guilt c : marked by chastity.** Unmixed with any other matter. This reminded me of a reality program I saw the other day on television. A woman was on her knees praying to the Lord. She closed her prayer with the sign of the cross and then a couple of scenes later she was meditating in front of a statute of buddha. Can you see the enemy at work here?

James 4:7-8

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts you double-minded.

I guess there's nothing new under the sun is there? There were double-minded people back in the day and we still have double-minded people today. We need to keep watch over ourselves that we do not allow the enemy in to confuse us. But in our meeting this week the Lord warned us of just such a thing when He said:

Avalanche of mud and dirt always trying to get to the inner chamber. There trying to force its way in. Keep watch over your temple, your heart. Don't let the mud and dirt in. It starts small with just a few pebbles rolling down the hill but the quantity and the speed pick up once there is motion (once it starts). Guard against it.

We must guard against those little “pebbles” rolling into our lives. In **Ephesians 4:25-27** The Lord instructs us to not give a place to the devil. *Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another. “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, **nor give place to the devil.** And in **Romans 12:21** *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

When the Lord talks about not giving place to the devil, He is saying in effect, do not open the door to the enemy. He lets us know that lowering our guard just a little (**a few pebbles**) is a slippery slope that will get away from us. He warns us that once it gets started the quantity and speed will pick up. **It starts small with just a few pebbles rolling down the hill but the quantity and the speed pick up once there is motion (once it starts).**

So what's the answer? What's the Solution? Well from the verses above in James 4 we were told to draw near to the Lord. And here in:

Romans 12:1-2

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. **And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.***

The Lord asks us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice. But what are we sacrificing? I believe we are to sacrifice our will (**getting rid of self**). Remember His words this week: **Obedience is the wall you are standing behind for the protection that comes from the Lord.** We've come around full circle to our Ark discussion haven't we? The Lord **lives in our hearts** which are kept clean and pure by His laws (**obedience**) that are there for our **safety and protection.**

This could be a hard message for some who believe we are no longer under the law. But I think Paul paints a good picture with these words from **Romans 6: 1-16** which states:

*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! **Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?***

Christ lives in us. We are a new man, an instrument of righteousness to God. We have chosen this life. A life of obedience, cleanliness and purity. The Lord explains why this cleanliness is important when He said, **Tracts of land, here and there are popping up temples of the Lord (not an actual building but people).** They are spread out. Here a little, there a little. The Lord is speaking. **Coming together. Guidance and rest are to be given out and this is why your cleanliness is important.**

And He warned us, **The motion of the pebbles (the avalanche of dirt) is picking up because the work of the Lord is picking up.** The devil will always try to stop it or get in the way of the Lord's work.

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Revelations 12:12

“Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”

Therefore we choose obedience leading to righteousness instead of lawlessness leading to death. We choose to have reverence for the Lord in His sanctuary. And there He shall dwell with us forever. And Jesus gives us this assurance in **Matthew 5:8**

Blessed are the pure in the heart, for they shall see God.

May the Lord Bless and Keep You and May His Countenance Shine Upon You!

God Bless,

Cindy

<http://www.takehisheart.com>